

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification

As the first sentence following the title, please insert:

A This application claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of prior co-pending U.S. provisional application serial no. 198,000, filed April 18, 2000.

In the Claims

Please cancel Claim 1.

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 is rejected as being anticipated under 35 USC §102. In response, Claim 1 has been withdraw by this amendment. Claims13-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C §112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps. In view of the reasons set forth below, it is submitted that this rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and reexamination of the present application in view of the amendments and remarks presented herein is respectfully requested.

Priority

In a Response filed July 19, 2001 to a Notice to File Missing Parts, Applicants submitted a Declaration and Power of Attorney claiming the benefit under 35 USC §119(e) of prior co-pending U.S. provisional application serial no. 198,000, filed April 18, 2000. Since the claim for priority was submitted within four months of the actual filing date of the non-provisional application, the timing requirements of 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5) were satisfied. In further compliance with 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5), Applicants now request that the specification be amended to contain the reference in the first sentence following the title.